



**Workshop/webinar invitation: Facilitating sustainable FDI flows to developing countries through the WTO Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement**

**29 June 2023**

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Trade Centre (ITC), we cordially invite you to a workshop/webinar on:

**Facilitating sustainable FDI flows to developing countries through the WTO Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement**

**29 June 2023, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Central European Time (CET)**

**in person at the WTO premises (Room W) and virtually via zoom**

This workshop/webinar is being held in the framework of the [project](#) on Investment Facilitation for Development and is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

**Like all ITC events, participation in the workshop/webinar is free of charge. It will be conducted in English.**

Participants are encouraged to attend the workshop in person at the WTO's premises. **If you wish to attend the workshop in person but do not have a badge to enter the WTO premises, please send us an email: [if4d@intracen.org](mailto:if4d@intracen.org) by 27 June 2023.**

This workshop can also be accessed online, but it is necessary to register for it (please [click here](#)), to receive the meeting link details.

The webinar will have the following agenda and speakers:

### *Moderator*

- **Karl P. Sauvant**, Senior Fellow, Columbia University, CCSI

***15:00 – 15:15 Opening remarks and Keynote address***

### *Opening remarks*

- **Mohammad Saeed**, Senior Trade Facilitation Adviser, ITC
- **Dorothee Schwill**, Counsellor, Development Policy, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Office of the United Nations and to the other International Organizations in Geneva

### *Keynote address*

- **Anabel González**, Deputy Director-General, WTO – ***“Benefits of the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement”***

### *Part I*

***15:15 – 16:00 Benefits of the IFD Agreement and determining technical assistance and capacity building needs***

### *Panellists*

- **Sofia Boza**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Chile to the WTO, Co-coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development
  - **Jung Sung Park**, Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO of the Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea in Geneva and Co-coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development
- “The state of play of the negotiations”*
- **Zoryana Olekseyuk**, Senior Researcher, IDOS – *“What do the data show regarding the economic impacts of the IFD Agreement?”*
  - **Pamela Apaza Lanyi**, Legal Affairs Officer, WTO – *“Special and differential treatment for developing countries and LDCs and the importance of needs assessments”*
  - **Q&A and free flow discussions**

**16:00 – 16:15** *Coffee break*

## *Part II*

**16:15 – 16:55** *Developing countries’ perspectives: why did we join the negotiations of an Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement?*

- **Joel Richards**, Senior Technical Specialist, Permanent Delegation of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in Geneva
- **Carlos Sebastian Guevara Aguirre**, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of Ecuador in Geneva
- **Tang Wei Guo**, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Singapore
- **Chidochashe N. Ncube**, Legal Manager, Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency

- **Matthew Stephenson**, Head, Investment Policy and Practice, World Economic Forum
- **Q&A and free flow discussions**

**16:55 – 17:00** *Concluding remarks*

- **Sofia Boza**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Chile to the WTO, Co-coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development
- **Jung Sung Park**, Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO of the Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea in Geneva and Co-coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development

***“Key takeaways”***

To join the meeting online, kindly click on the link that will be sent to you shortly before 3:00 p.m. CET on 29 June 2023 and follow the instructions.

The workshop/webinar will be conducted in English and in an interactive manner and allow for questions by participants.

The Joint Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development was adopted at the 11th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in December 2017. Following the launch of formal negotiations by its participants in September 2020 aimed at developing a multilateral agreement on investment facilitation for development, great strides have been made towards concluding the agreement. The ongoing negotiations among over 110 WTO Members on the text of the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement are expected to be concluded in July 2023. It seeks to help WTO Members improve their investment climate and facilitate FDI flows (particularly to developing and least developed country (LDC) Members) in the interest of fostering sustainable development.

After an update on the status of the negotiations by the co-coordinators, the workshop/webinar will discuss the benefits that the IFD Agreement can bring to WTO Members, particularly developing country and LDC Members, based notably on the IFD Agreement's comprehensive special and differential treatment provisions. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss specific issues and challenges that developing and LDCs face in facilitating sustainable FDI and how the IFD Agreement can help them to deal with those issues and contribute to increased FDI flows. Finally, and crucially, the workshop/webinar will also highlight next steps, including the IFD needs-assessment process to assist developing country and LDC Members in identifying possible implementation gaps and in assessing their technical assistance and capacity-building needs and priorities to attract not only more, but also higher-quality FDI flows.

Importantly, the workshop/webinar will furthermore provide insights from a number of developing countries on their decision to participate in the IFD negotiations.

We look forward to welcoming you to the workshop/webinar, both in person at the WTO premises and virtually via zoom!

With kind regards,

Rajesh Aggarwal, Director (oic), Division for Market Development, ITC

Karl P. Sauvant, Senior Fellow, Columbia University, CCSI

**Background information:**

ITC-IDOS project on [Investment Facilitation for Development](#).

Edward J. Balistreri & Zoryana Olekseyuk, 2021. "[Economic impacts of investment facilitation](#)", Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) Publications 21-wp615, Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) at Iowa State University.

Axel Berger, Yardenne Kagan and Karl P. Sauvant, eds., [Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers](#) (Geneva: ITC, 2022), second edition.

Karl P. Sauvant, “[How would a future WTO Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development encourage sustainable FDI flows, and how could it be further strengthened?](#)”, in Kabir Duggal, Gustavo Vaughn, Elora Farias, Mateo Verdías, and Gino Rivas, *What Does It Mean to be “Pro Arbitration”? Reflections on George Bermann’s Legacy by Columbia Law School Community* (Huntington: JURIS, 2023).

Karl P. Sauvant and Evan Gabor, “[Facilitating sustainable FDI for sustainable development in a WTO Investment Facilitation Framework: Four concrete proposals](#)”, *Journal of World Trade*, vol. 55 (2021), pp. 261-286.

Karl P. Sauvant, “[The potential value-added of a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development](#)”, *Transnational Dispute Management*, 2 (2020).

## **Bios:**

### **Carlos Sebastian Guevara Aguirre**

Carlos Guevara entered the Ecuadorian Foreign Service in 2006. Currently, he is Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the WTO. Previously, he served at his country’s Embassy in Japan. He has a bachelor’s degree in Economics from the Ecuadorian National Polytechnic School, and a master’s degree in the same field from the University of Tsukuba (Japan). During his career, he has specialized in trade and trade related matters, working in both, Ecuador’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Trade. He has been involved in the investment facilitation negotiations since 2019.

### **Pamela Apaza Lanyi**

Pamela Apaza is Legal Officer at the WTO Secretariat specialized in trade in services, services regulation and international investment matters. She works on the Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development since it was launched in 2017. She is also responsible for GATS MFN issues, educational services and Mutual Recognition Agreements. Previously, she worked on providing technical assistance to developing country Members in the implementation of WTO Agreements. Before joining the WTO in 2007, she worked as legal advisor and negotiator for the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Trade. She holds a PhD from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

## **Sofia Boza**

Sofía Boza is the Ambassador of Chile to the World Trade Organization since July 2022. She has also taken over the co-coordination of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development. Prior to that, she was an Associate Professor and Chief at the Department of Rural Management and Innovation at the University of Chile and Professor at the Institute of International Studies at the same University. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Seville and a PhD in Economics from the Autonomous University of Madrid.

## **Anabel González**

Anabel González is Deputy Director-General to the World Trade Organization. She is a renowned global expert on trade, investment and economic development, with a proven managerial track record in international organisations and the public sector. In government, she served as Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica; Director General for International Trade Negotiations; Director-General of the Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency; and Special Ambassador and Chief negotiator of the US-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement. She also served at the World Bank as a Senior Director and at the WTO as Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division.

## **Chidochashe N. Ncube**

Chidochashe N. Ncube is Legal Manager at the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) and a Doctoral Candidate at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, where she is researching financial technology and the law. She holds an LLB from the Great Zimbabwe University-Zimbabwe and an LLM (cum laude) in International Trade, Investment and Business Law from the University of the Western Cape. Before joining ZIDA, she worked with the Charter Cities Institute, TRALAC and CUTS International Geneva.

## **Zoryana Olekseyuk**

Zoryana Olekseyuk is a Senior Researcher at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS). Her work focuses on economic integration/disintegration, trade, FDI, and investment facilitation, mainly with respect to developing countries. Being an experienced computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeller, she developed many innovative CGE models, e.g., incorporating heterogeneous firms and FDI in services. She has contributed to many international research projects and acts as a consultant for the World Bank and WTO. Her research is published in such journals as *World Economy*, *Empirical Review of*

*Development Economics, Economic Modelling, and the Journal of International Trade and Economic Development.*

### **Jung Sung Park**

Jung Sung Park has been the Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea in Geneva since January 2022. He has been the co-coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development since June 2022. His previous positions include Director-General for policy coordination in industry, energy, trade, science ITC, and SMEs under the Prime Minister; Director for trade policy, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy; and Director for trade industry, Office of the President. He had participated in various bilateral FTA negotiations and led the single window team at Invest Korea.

### **Joel Richards**

Joel Richards is an international trade policy and private sector development professional with over 12 years of advising senior government officials and business executives within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) bloc on issues relating to trade and competitiveness. He is currently a senior advisor to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission's Diplomatic Mission in Geneva where he represents OECS member states at the World Trade Organization and other international bodies.

### **Mohammad Saeed**

Mohammad Saeed is Senior Adviser on Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business with ITC, leading its trade-facilitation team. He focuses on assisting countries to promote trade through improving the competitiveness of private businesses. He has provided advisory services to 50+ developing countries for their trade policy reforms. Before that, he served as Senior Technical Adviser on trade and transport facilitation at UNCTAD. He has extensive experience in handling complex issues of international trade law, having served on six WTO Dispute Panels, including four as Chair. He worked as trade negotiator of Pakistan in the WTO Doha Round Negotiations.

### **Karl P. Sauvant**

Karl P. Sauvant introduced the idea of an International Support Program for Sustainable Investment Facilitation in the E15 Task Force on Investment Policy in 2015. From there, the proposal was taken forward in the WTO. He has written extensively on this subject (<https://ssrn.com/author=2461782>) and currently assists ITC on a project on Investment Facilitation for Development. He retired in 2005 as



Director of UNCTAD's Investment Division and established, in 2006, what is now the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI). He stepped down as the Center's Executive Director in 2012, to focus his work on teaching, research and writing.

### **Dorothee Schwill**

Dorothee Schwill is Development Policy Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the UN and WTO in Geneva. Since July 2021, she oversees Germany's engagement with Geneva-based global partnerships and international organizations active in development cooperation, with a special focus on Aid for Trade. A trained economist and alumnus of the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), she has been working for over ten years for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Previous assignments include the role of Senior Policy Advisor working on the principles of Good Financial Governance.

### **Matthew Stephenson**

Matthew Stephenson is Head for Investment Policy and Practice at the World Economic Forum, where he manages the Global Investment Policy and Practice initiative. Previously, he worked at the IFC, where he led the workstream on outward FDI. He has also worked at the OECD on Africa and investment and served as a diplomat for the U.S. Department of State, leading the economic team on Afghanistan and managing economic programmes in the Middle East. He has a PhD from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, a master's from the Harvard Kennedy School and a bachelor's from Oxford University.

### **Tang Wei Guo**

Tang Wei Guo is a trade diplomat at the WTO, representing Singapore for the plurilateral negotiations on Services Domestic Regulations, Investment Facilitation and E-commerce. Prior to this posting, he and his team launched eight reciprocal green lanes with China, the Republic of Korea, Germany, and ASEAN countries, to facilitate essential business and social travel during government lockdowns, while keeping the COVID-19 import cases under control. Wei Guo was also part of the team that established the Singapore-Shanghai Comprehensive Cooperation Council and the Singapore-Shenzhen Smart City Initiative in 2019, while driving Singapore's economic cooperation with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.